AN ADDITIONAL RECORD OF EUPLOEA TULLIOLUS TULLIOLUS (FABRICIUS) (LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE: DANAINAE) FROM SOUTH OF NATURAL BRIDGE, SOUTH-EAST QUEENSLAND

R.B. LACHLAN

Entomology Department, Australian Museum, 6 College St, Sydney, NSW 2010

Abstract

An additional distribution record from south-east Queensland is provided for Euploea tulliolus tulliolus (Fabricius, 1793).

Introduction

Euploea tulliolus tulliolus (Fabricius, 1793) is primarily a coastal tropical species often found along the margins of creeks and rivers where its host plant, *Trophus scandens* (Lour.), grows (Lambkin 2010). Recorded from numerous Torres Strait islands (Lambkin and Knight 2007), Common and Waterhouse (1981) stated it was rare on Cape York Peninsula, common from Cairns to Gladstone and rare south of Brisbane, noting it had been reported as far south as the Clarence River and Urunga in northern New South Wales. Lambkin (2010) noted that it occurred sporadically in remnant riparian forest along some creeks in the northern suburbs of Brisbane. Braby (2000) noted that few specimens had been collected south of Brisbane. Scheermeyer (1993, 1999) stated that it has a patchy distribution, tends to occur in localised populations and occurs only sporadically in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales, a view shared by the present author.

Between 10-12 February 2014, five males were collected and at least that number additionally sighted in an overgrown, darkish patch of riparian forest in a small, 40 m section of a creek at 28°15′03"S, 153°14′01"E, about 6 km south of Natural Bridge and less than 500 m from the Qld-NSW border.

Euploea tulliolus tulliolus (Fabricius, 1793) (Fig. 1)

Material examined. QUEENSLAND: 5 &&, 6 km south of Natural Bridge, 28°15'03"S, 153°14'01"E, ca 355 m, 10-12.ii.2014, R.B. Lachlan (in RBL coll.).

Comments. Apart from the five retained, several specimens were netted and released but no females were observed during the three-day survey. Despite exploring the creek extensively for several hundred metres, both above and below the small section of the creek where all specimens were seen and collected, no other specimens were sighted or collected elsewhere. The author has explored numerous creeks in the eastern Lamington National Park region of south-east Queensland and over the border in New South Wales, particularly near and around the Limpinwood Nature Reserve area over many years without previously sighting a single specimen of E. t. tulliolus. The absence of females suggests the population observed might have been an aestivating aggregation during what was a hot, dry period.



Fig. 1. Male Euploea tulliolus tulliolus collected from the newly recorded locality.

Acknowledgements

I thank Ted Edwards (ANIC, Canberra) for helpful comments on the manuscript, Derek Smith and Russell Cox (Entomology Department, Australian Museum, Sydney) for assistance in preparing Fig. 1.

References

BRABY, M.F. 2000. Butterflies of Australia: their identification, biology and distribution. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood; xx + 976 pp.

COMMON, I.F.B. and WATERHOUSE, D.F. 1981. Butterflies of Australia. Angus and Robertson, Sydney; xiv + 682pp.

LAMBKIN, T.A. 2010. The early stages of *Euploea tulliolus tulliolus* (Fabricius) (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae: Danainae) from Brisbane, Queensland. *Australian Entomologist* 37(4): 129-136.

LAMBKIN, T.A. and KNIGHT, A.I. 2007. Confirmation of *Euploea leucostictos* (Gmelin) and *E. netscheri erana* (Fruhstorfer) (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae) in Torres Strait, Queensland, and the first record of *E. tulliolus dudgeonis* (Grose-Smith) in Australia. *Australian Entomologist* 34(1): 15-26.

SCHEERMEYER, E. 1993. Overwintering of three Australian danaines: *Tirumala hamata hamata, Euploea tulliolus tulliolus* and *E. core corinna*. Pp 345-353, in: Malcolm, S.B. and Zalucki, M.P. (eds), *The biology of conservation of the Monarch butterfly*. Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. Los Angeles; xii + 419 pp.

SCHEERMEYER, E. 1999. The crows, *Euploea* species, with notes on the blue tiger, *Tirumala hamata* (Nymphalidae: Danainae). Pp 191-216, in: Kitching, R.L., Scheermeyer, E., Jones, R.E. and Pierce, N.E. (eds), *Biology of Australian butterflies. Monographs on Australian Lepidoptera*, Vol. 6. CSIRO Publishing, Canberra.